

How to improve nursing care? Perspectives of hospitalized school aged children parents

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Introduction: Consumer satisfaction is considered the golden standard of care in nursing. Questioning directly the users is a current practice in order to identify aspects of care that can be improved, from the patient point of view [1]. This study aims to identify aspects to improve nursing care, as referred by parents of hospitalized school aged children.

Materials and methods: An observational, cross-sectional, exploratory-descriptive study with a non-probabilistic and accidental sample was conducted. As data collection technique, the questionnaire "Citizen Satisfaction with Nursing Care", adapted from the original to this population, was used and integrates the open-ended question: "which aspects of nursing care could be improved?". Responses were submitted to qualitative analysis, with content analysis technique. Authorization was obtained from ethics committees in each health institutions as well as National Data Protection Commission.

Results: The sample ($n = 251$) includes mainly women (83.7%, $n = 210$) with 37.65 (SD = 6.3) as mean age. Most parents did not respond to this question (53.4%, $n = 134$) and among respondents ($n = 117$), five categories were identified: "satisfaction" ($f = 71$), "personal domain" ($F = 22$), "environmental domain" ($f = 18$) "professional domain" ($f = 1$) and "nursing assignment" ($f = 6$).

Discussion and conclusions: The results point to satisfaction with care [2] and among the items to be improved, personal and relational aspects are emphasized as highly valued by parents [3,4] and closely related to overall satisfaction and intention to return/recommend services [3].

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PHYSIOTHERAPY

Patients' perceptions regarding handling and using of the Wii Sports System in Parkinson disease

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Introduction: People with Parkinson disease (PwP) benefit from ongoing exercise to manage their disease. This can be obtained through home-based programs, such as the Wii Sports System (WiiSS). However, these programs raise fundamental questions regarding what barriers are perceived by PwP that will influence the adherence of its use. These may be important issues for physical therapists to target in PwP. The aim of the present study is to identify the usability to exercising with the WiiSS in PwP with special focus on the handling requirements and using it as exercise regime.

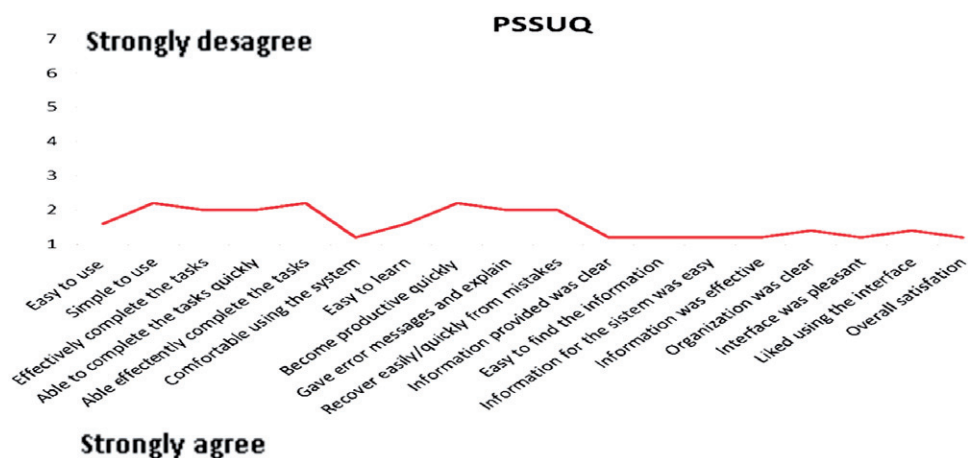


Figure 1. Satisfaction of participants based on the PSSUQ.

Materials and methods: PwP, dwelled in the community, in stages I to III on the Hoehn and Yahr scale (H&Y) participated in this study. Participants were characterized according to: disease staging (H&Y scale), clinical status (MDS-UPDRS), cognition (Mini-mental MMSE), balance (Berg Scale) and functionality (Timed Up & Go test). Study duration was planned for 3 months with nine practical sessions of 1 h. Participant satisfaction level was assessed based on replies to the Post-Study Usability Questionnaire (PSSUQ). Additionally, adherence to the sessions was assessed based on number of sessions attended or number of withdraws from the study. Anonymized patients data were analyzed after study approval by the Ethics Commissions of Cooperativa de Ensino Superior Egas Moniz.

Results: Ten PwP (7 Men) with mean age of 68 ± 5.4 years old participated in our study. All patients participated in all sessions with a 100% adherence rate. The mean value of satisfaction of the participants with the PSSUQ was 1.6 ± 0.41 . Replies with best scores included “overall satisfaction”, “interface was pleasant”, “information was effective”, “information for the system was easy”, “easy to find the information”, “information provided was clear” and lastly “comfortable using the system” (Figure 1).

Discussion and conclusions: Handling and use of the WiiSS was well received in our group of PwP, who were ambulatory and living in the community. Addressing knowledge requirements and perceptions relating to the handling of technology, as well as recognizing the challenges specific to this patient group in terms of need for more learning processes, may assist in increasing the use of such promising training devices as means of improving patients' physical, psychological and social well-being.

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The effect of assistive devices on gait patterns in Parkinson's disease: a pilot study

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Introduction: To assess the influence of 6 different assistive devices (ADs) on gait patterns in people with Parkinson (PwP) and the frequency and type of problems that arise from the use of each AD (i.e. freezing episodes; anxiety and/or panic attacks; stumbles and/or falls; patient perception of feeling safe; and patient level of satisfaction).

Materials and methods: Prospective, single-center pilot study involving PwP. Patients were consented in to the study and after were instructed to walk on a comfortable, self-selected, walking speed across the 2' by 16' Zeno walkway (ProtoKinetics, Havertown, PA). Spatiotemporal gait measures were collected when patients walked without and with different ADs: an aluminium straight cane (Cane); a tripod cane (TCane); a pair of Nordic walking sticks (NWS); a standard walker (StW); a two-wheeled walker (2WW) with fixed wheels and a four-wheeled walker (4WW) with front wheels casters. Gait parameters were analyzed and presented in a previous study [1]. This study was leaded through a Case Report Form (CRF) that included a self-perceived questionnaire about each AD approved by the Ethic Commission of the Cooperativa de Ensino Superior Egas Moniz.